

Markwet language

Markweta (Markweeta) is a Kalenjin language of Kenya. The regional terms *Endo* and *Sambirir* (or the clan name *Talai*) have been used for northern and southern Markweta, but they are not distinct dialects. The unmarked word order is Verb–subject–object.

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Phonology

Vowels

Markweta has five basic vowels: /a, e, i, o, u/. All vowels have variants based on tongue root position and length, for a total of 20 distinct vowel phonemes.

The vowels /o:/ and /a:/ are both pronounced like /ɔ:/, and can only be distinguished by looking at affixes.^[3]

Consonants

Markweta has 13 consonants:

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>
<u>Stop</u>	p	t	c	k
<u>Fricative</u>		s		
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n	ɲ	ŋ
<u>Approximant</u>		l	j	w
<u>Trill</u>		r		

Morphology

Markweta	
Native to	Kenya
Ethnicity	Marakwet
Native speakers	180,000 (2009 census) ^[1]
Language family	Nilo-Saharan? <div> <div>▪ Eastern Sudanic</div> <div>▪ Nilotic</div> <div>▪ Southern Nilotic</div> <div>▪ Kalenjin</div> <div>▪ Nandi–Markweta</div> <div>▪ Markweta</div> </div>
Dialects	Endo (Northern) <div></div> Sambirir (Southern)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	enb
Glottolog	mark1255 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mark1255) ^[2]

Markweta has gender. Gender is realized as a prefix added primarily for person nouns and animal names, but sometimes inanimate objects.

The prefixes 'kaa-' and 'kii-' are used to indicate nominalization.

References

1. Markweta (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/enb/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Markweeta" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mark1255>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Zwarts, Joost. (2004). *The phonology of Endo : a southern Nilotic language of Kenya*. LINCOM EUROPA. ISBN 3895868205. OCLC 249588881 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/249588881>).

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